

SENATE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE NO. 12  
DATE 2/10/11  
SB 17, 18

# BROADWATER COUNTY

## MONTANA

515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644

February 9, 2011

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senator Terry Murphy, Chair  
and Committee Member

**Subject: SB17 & SB18 - Requesting a DO-NOT-PASS**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

We are concerned about SB17 & SB18 and what they could mean for our county. We are a small county and we work well together managing a tight budget and stretching our dollars as we can make them go.

We work together as a team; even through disagreements we maintain mutual respect and keep our community first.

This bill would put that relationship in jeopardy. Checks and balances are part of our Democracy and are necessary for maintaining the public trust.

Our sheriff runs the jail and her staff without interference, but she works with the County Finance Officer on her budget, utilizes the county HR Department and her insurance for the jail and to cover employee disputes is under the county insurance with JPIA (Joint Powers Trust) and MACo.

If these bills get a Do-Pass in Committee and pass the floor, we are worried about Broadwater County taxpayers and citizens' safety.

The county will still have budgetary responsibility for the jail, but JPIA said they would likely drop detention centers (jails) from their insurance coverage. MACo could also drop these employee disputes from their coverage as proper procedures would no longer apply. County taxpayers could be on the hook for some big expenses increased insurance rates and lawsuits.

These bills are poorly written, have technical errors, are too open ended and leave too many unanswered questions.

Please vote to DO-NOT-PASS these bills out of your committee.

*Laura Obert*

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# BROADWATER COUNTY MONTANA



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